

Meldrum School

Newsletter

2017-18

We're on Twitter!



@MeldrumSchool



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Friday 26th January 2018

Welcome back to this new term and 2018 as we move forward to Spring. It is already proving to be yet another busy term!

Staffing

As in past terms, there are a number of changes in staffing in the school.

Currently we have four members of staff who have been off long term and a number of staff who have fallen foul of the latest flu bug. This has had a major effect on the school meaning that Mr Mitchell, Mrs Brown and Miss Harper have required to take on additional teaching responsibility in the school on top of their normal duties. This will affect their availability and we would ask that if you require appointments or responses please bear with us as the capacity in the school has been greatly reduced.

Miss Crooks (P7) and Mrs Grant (Science and P5) remain absent from school and this has meant the continuation of interim arrangements for them. Mrs Thomson will continue in P7 on Mondays and Tuesdays with Mrs Brown leading the P7 class for the remainder of the week. Mrs Grant's P5 commitment is being covered by Miss Harper on Thursdays and Fridays.

We welcome two new members of staff to school who will teach across the school. They are Mrs Sylvia Leith who will mainly teach French and Mrs Kirstie Chalmers who will teach range of subjects across the school. Mrs Leith will be with us on Tuesdays and Wednesday and Mrs Chalmers will be with us every Tuesday. We very much welcome Mrs Leith and Mrs Chalmers and hope they will enjoy their time with us. Mr Mitchell will also be

teaching across the school. He will be teaching "Philosophy for Children" this term with various classes.

There remains a temporary teaching vacancy in the school and this is currently being advertised.

We also say congratulations to Mrs McEwan, our current P6/7 teacher who will be leaving in May 2018 to have her baby.

We aim to have this new maternity post in May advertised to ensure that the class is well prepared and a smooth transition is planned for.

Sadly, Mrs Shurmer, based in Room 8, finishes today to take up a post at Gordon Primary in Huntly. We thank her for her years of service and wish her well in her new post.

Mrs Shurmer's replacement is being recruited and we hope to announce this in the next few weeks. Mrs McCranor will cover for Mrs Shurmer until her replacement starts in school.

Nursery Open Hour

Our Nursery Open Hour this year is on Tuesday 30th March from 1.00-2.00pm. This is an opportunity for parents/carers who will be enrolling their children to start Nursery during 2018/19 session to visit our Nursery. A reminder that nursery enrolment for 2018/19 session runs until Friday 2nd February.

School Improvement

1. Positive Relationships (Discipline)
2. Raising Attainment in Literacy – Emerging Literacy
3. Curriculum and Teacher Planning

4. **Meldrum Cluster – introducing “Bounce Back”**
5. **Assessment and Moderation – consistency of standards**

Progress to date:

- Questionnaire to be issued to parents regarding views on how we will deliver our positive relationships approaches.
- School is updating its Values and Aims and this will then support the creation of the school’s curriculum rationale. Staff, pupils and Parents at the recent MPIP meeting have input into the process and this will help to create our draft visions and values statements.
- Teacher planning continues to be developed. Formats are to be piloted.
- Bounce Back Resilience Programme to be introduced in term 4.
- Teaching staff are continuing to meet regularly to discuss assessment and moderation as part of the school’s annual calendar.

Approaching children in the playground

I would once again ask for your co-operation in that if you have concerns regarding another child in the school please contact the school and share your concerns. Please do not approach other children in the school. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

MPIP Meeting

Thank you to all who managed to join us last week for the MPIP meeting. I was delighted to be able to share with the group the Scottish Government’s National Improvement Framework. This provides the structure and priorities for all schools in ensuring continuous improvement.

Parents present at the meeting also completed an activity to suggest statements and values as we finalise the schools values and aims.

Burns Lunch

As you will be aware, we had our own Burns lunch this Thursday. Primary 7 pupils came down to address the haggis for P1 and P2 pupils before a special Burns lunch was had.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Jamie Stephen in P6 who piped us all into lunch.

Photographs

This year we will be arranging class photographs. These will be taken on Monday March 12th and Tuesday March 13th.

Dates for the diary

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|---------------------------|--|
| Fri 9 th Feb | Occasional Holiday |
| Mon 12 th Feb | Mid-term holiday |
| Tue 13 th Feb | INSET Day – closed to pupils |
| Wed 14 th Feb | INSET Day – closed to pupils |
| Fri 16 th Feb | MPIP Valentine Day Disco |
| Mon 19 th Feb | MPIP Meeting 7pm – all welcome |
| Sun 11 th Mar | MPIP sponsored walk |
| Mon 12 th Mar | MPIP Meeting 7pm – all welcome Class Photographs |
| Tue 13 th Mar | Class photographs |
| Wed 28 th Mar | Parent Consultation (by request) and Open Evening |
| Thur 29 th Mar | End of term |
| Mon 16 th Apr | New Summer Term |

Further calendar details can be found on the Meldrum School website below.

<http://meldrum-pri.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/School-Calendar-2017-18.pdf>